Utilisation of funds

*655. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has not been able to utilise funds allocated to it in the Budget for the last many years;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds which remained unutilised for the last three years ending 31st March, 2003, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure full utilisation of funds allocated to the Ministry and the services in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The difference between the net provision made in Defence Services in Budget Estimates and actual expenditure in the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 8964.96 crores and in the year 2001-2002, it was Rs. 7734.27 crores. For 2002-2003, the Revised Estimates were Rs. 9000.00 crores less than the Budget Estimates. The accounts for the year 2002-2003 have not yet been closed and hence the difference between the Budget Estimates and actual expenditure is not yet available.

The detailed reasons for variation between the budgetary allocations and the actual expenditure have been given in the Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services) for respective years presented to the Parliament.

In order to fully utilise the allocated Funds, the progress of Defence expenditure and status of various procurement proposals is kept under constant review and follow up action, as necessary, is taken. A new procurement Organisation has also been established to deal with acquisitions on capital account for the Defence Services.

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता : सभापति महोदय, क्वेश्चन आवर तो खत्म हो गया।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over. आपका कहना मान लिया है।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Fencing at Indo-Bangla Border

*641. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of fencing of Indo-Bangla border is not progressing as per schedule;

(b) if so, the total Km. of Indo-Bangla border fenced in its second phase work;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the fencing work; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to speed up the task and to complete it within time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) Under Phase-II of the fencing work along Indo-Bangladesh Border, a total of 255 Kms. of fence has been completed. The progress of work has been slow due to the following reasons :

(i) Need to modify the design of fencing for low-lying area to avoid submergence of the fencing.

(ii) To provide for double row of fencing with concertina coil one over the other instead of one layer of concertina coil as single row as per Group of Ministers' (GoM) recommendations.

(iii) Need to modify design of fencing for hilly terrain of Tripura to make it more effective.

(iv) Delay in forest clearance as well as delay in acquisition of land.

All these issues have been resolved in consultation with the concerned agencies. Accordingly, designs of fencing have been modified and the work is being speeded up. For expeditious and completion of work ahead of schedule, the Government have also decided to engage more agencies for fencing work on Indo-Bangladesh Border.

Rapid power development and reform programme

†*644. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had initiated the Rapid Power Development and Reform Programme to improve the existing power scenario in the country;

(b) if so, when it was initiated;

(c) the total number of projects of power sector under construction when the above programme was initiated along with production capacity thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent on the construction of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Government initiated in February, 2001 the Accelerated Power

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.